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Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 238

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTAGE, JULY 2, 1974

FOR BREMER FROM S/PRS

1. MARVIN KALB - CBS RADIO - FIRST LINE REPORT FROM MOSCOW:

IMPRESSIONS OF A MOSCOW SUMMIT: PRESIDENT NIXON SEEMS TO
BE GETTING TIRED, THE PAIN IN ONE LEG CAUSED BY PHLEBITIS
FORCED THE PRESIDENT TO LIMP DURING HIS VISIT TO MINSK,
THE RE-BUILT BUT ESSENTIALLY GRAND CAPITAL OF THE
BELORUSSIAN SOVIET REPUBLIC. IT WAS FOR THE PRESIDENT
ESSENTIALLY A ROUGH DAY. UP EARLY IN YALTA, OVER-
LOOKING THE BLACK SEA, HE HAD TO RIDE TO THE AIRPORT,
A RIDE THAT TOOK AN HOUR AND A HALF. THEN A TWO HOUR
PLANE RIDE TO MINSK, CONSTANT SOCIALIZING AND SIGHT-
SEEING THROUGHOUT THE DAY, THE RETURN FLIGHT TO MOSCOW, THE
RETURN TO THE KREMLIN PAST TEN PM LOCAL TIME, THE LIMP
QUITE PRONOUNCED BUT ZIEGLER SAID THE PRESIDENT IS FEELING
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FINE. TODAY THE PRESIDENT AND BREZHNEV RESUME THEIR

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DISCUSSIONS FOCUSSING CHIEFLY ON STRATEGIC WEAPONS. IT IS CLEAR THEY HAVE NOT REACHED AGREEMENT, A COMPREHENSIVE DEAL OUT OF THEIR GRASP AT THIS SUMMIT. MINOR ARRANGEMENTS MORE LIKELY: A LIMITED UNDERGROUND TEST BAN, A REVISION OF THE 1972 ANTI-BALLISTIC TREATY AND IN THIS CONTEXT,

MOST IMPORTANT, A JOINT PLEDGE TO TRY TO REACH AN AGREEMENT BY YEARS END TO PUT A CEILING ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF MIRVS. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD HOPED TO BE ABLE TO REACH A MIRV AGREEMENT DURING THIS SUMMIT, THAT IS NOW IMPOSSIBLE. THERE IS NO UNIFIED AMERICAN POSITION AND THERE IS NO ACCEPTABLE SOVIET PROPOSITION, SO A DEAL IS POSTPONED BUT WITHIN A FRAMEWORK THAT MAKES IT APPEAR AS THOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IT IS HARD TO TELL WHO IS HAPPY HERE, EVERYONE IS SO TIRED BUT KISSINGER DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE HIS USUAL BOUYANT SELF. IN YALTA THE OTHER DAY A REPORTER SPOTTED THE SECRETARY CHATTING WITH GROMYKO OFF TO ONE SIDE OF THE CROWD. THE REPORTER ASKED HIM A QUESTION -- RONALD ZIEGLER MOVED QUICKLY TOWARDS THE CONVERSATION ABOUT TO BEGIN. KISSINGER DEFERRED IN AN UNCHARACTERISTIC FASHION -- THEY DON'T TELL ME ANYTHING HE TOLD THE REPORTER WITH A VERY FAINT SMILE, I JUSTWALK TEN STEPS BEHIND THEM. THIS JAPANESE BRIDE APPROACH TO DIPLOMACY IS NOT USUALLY KISSINGER'S. WHEN THE SECRETARY WAS STOPPED BY ANOTHER REPORTER YESTERDAY AND ASKED ABOUT A POSSIBLE MIRV AGREE-MENT GROMYKO DARTED TO THE SECRETARY'S SIDE. QUIETLY HE ADMONISHED REPORTERS DON'T HURT MY FRIEND. KISSINGER ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE PROTECTED. THERE HAS BEEN SPECULA-TION AMONG THE TRAVELING WHITE HOUSE PRESS CORPS THAT KISSINGER AND THE PRESIDENT HAVE BEEN AT ODDS ON THIS STRATEGIC ARMS NEGOTIATION. KISSINGER PUSHING FOR A DEAL, THE PRESIDENT HOLDING BACK FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, ACTING TOUGH. IF THIS IS NOT CLEVER STRATEGY AND REALLY TRUE THEN IT IS AN INTERESTING POSITION FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO BE IN. HE SEEMS TO BE PRESSING THE PRESIDENT TO SOFTEN HIS POLICY HERE IN MOSCOW. THE PRESIDENT SEEMS TO BE UNABLE TO RECONCILE KISSINGER'S QUARRELS WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, UNABLE OR SIMPLY UNWILLING. WHILE THE SUMMIT CONTINUES TODAY, SO UNCLASSIFIED

DOES THE HUNGER STRIKE OF SAHKAROV. SAHKAROV IS LOSING STRENGTH; NOW IN HIS FOURTH DAY OF DRINKING ONLY MINERAL WATER, NO FOOD. HE WANTS RUSSIA TO CHANGE, ADMIT TO DEMOCRACY IN EFFECT AND THAT IS NOT LIKELY THE PRESIDENT AND BREZHNEV MAY WANT TO BASK IN THE GLORY OF SUMMITRY, ALL THE AGREEMENTS WILL HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED BY TOMORROW BUT BOTH IN DIFFERENT WAYS WILL BE BOTHERED BY SAHKAROV. TO THE PRACTICIONERS OF POWER

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DANGLING SALT AND MIRV, MORALITY SEEMS ALMOST IRRELEVKT.

2. WTOP RADIO - SCHOR-COLSON INTERVIEW:

COLSON SAYS IT WAS DR. HENRY KISSINGER WHO CREATED THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE WHITE HOSUE THAT LED TO THE PLUMBERS WHEN NEWS GOT OUT THE US WAS SECRETLY BOMBING CAMBODIA.

COLSON ZHENRY KISSINGER WAS IN A FRENZY OVER THE LEAKS -- THE THREATENED LEAKS -- AND I MUST SAY WITH CONSIDERABLE LEGITAMACY. THERE HAD BEEN LEAKS PRIOR, TOO -- THERE HAD BEEN A LEAK OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION OF THE MOST SENSITIVE KIND AT THE TIME OF CAMBODIA AND FRANKLY THAT PARTICULAR LEAK COULD HAVE COST MANY MANY HUNDREDS OF AMERICAN LIVES. KISSINGER WAS HYPER-SENSITIVE TO THIS. I THINK IF ANY-THING HE PROBABLY EXERCISED THE PRESIDENT A GREAT DEAL IN TERMS OF WHAT HENRY WAS SAYING IN VARIOUS MEETINGS THAT I WAS IN AND I THINK HE UNDOUBTEDLY HEIGHTENED THE PRESIDENT'S OWN CONCERNS." (FROM SCHORR-COLSON 'PRAY MEETING')

3. DANIEL SCHORR - CBS TV CRONKITE SHOW:

COLSON SAID THAT PRESIDENT NIXON IN CREATING THE PLUMBERS HAD BEEN EGGED ON BY HENRY KISSINGER'S RAGE OVER ELLSBERG. COLSON -"CERTAINLY IN MY VIEW KISSINGER WAS THE MOTIVATING FORCE IN THE GREAT CONCERNS THAT EXISTED, IN THE WHITE HOUSE OVER THE SECURITY OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AND SOME INFORMATION THAT WAS NOT CLASSIFIED BUT MIGHT HAVE BEEN- PERHAPS, DAMAGING IN TERMS OF UNDEF-MINING THE CREDIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT IN TERMS OF FOREIGN POLICY." SISCO

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